



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

11/04/22

State Senator Tim Carpenter and State Senator Bob Wirth

Public Service Commission
North Tower, 6th Floor
Fill Farms State Office Building
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705

Relating to Case Number 5-UR-110 Joint Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC for Authority to Adjust Electric, Natural Gas, and Steam Rates

To the Public Service Commission:

Thank you for considering public comments with regard to WEC Energy Group's application to raise rates by double digits on residential customers, while pursuing more modest increases on big businesses. We appreciate that the public will have an opportunity to make their voices heard before this adjustment is considered by the Commission.

WEC Energy Group stands to bring in another round of record profits; nevertheless they are seeking permission from PSC to hike energy rates by 13 percent for residential customers and 6.4 percent for businesses. We are highly opposed to this plan, along with hundreds of members of the public who have already provided comments to PSC.

Besides our opposition to the rate hike, we are concerned that the deadline for the public to provide their comments comes on November 7, just one day before a consequential election. News of a potential increase for residential customers has only become widely understood in recent days, while many issues have been on the people of Wisconsin's minds preceding the election November 8th. Based on communications we have already received to our offices, and the number of comments that continue to roll into PSC today, we anticipate that many more residents will want to provide their opinions once their attention turns from the election to the impending winter cold.

We believe that it would be more appropriate to extend this deadline and allow for the people to consider such a dramatic rate increase as a standalone issue before the comment period closes. Scheduling the deadline for the day before the election could result in many people missing this important opportunity to make sure their voices are heard while they are focused on the many issues at stake on Election Day.

It is our belief that customer interests, especially residential customers, should be a factor in any evaluation of rate adjustments, particularly large adjustments such as those in this application. While Wisconsinites have been faced with increasing costs across all industries as a result of inflation, such a rate increase would only add to the financial stress that families are enduring. It would be a great shame if they did not have every accommodation to make sure that their input is considered before any determination is made by the Public Service Commission.

We respectfully request that you extend the deadline for public comment on the application under Case 5-UR-110 Joint Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC for Authority to Adjust Electric, Natural Gas, and Steam Rates.

Thank you,

State Senator Tim Carpenter, 3rd District

State Senator Bob Wirth, 22nd District